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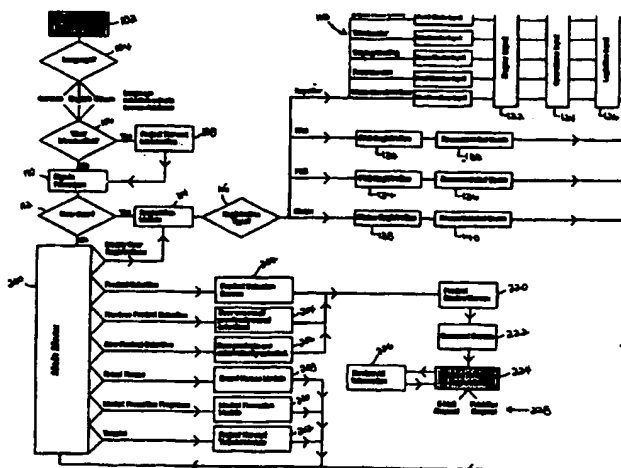
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(54) Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR MULTILINGUAL ONLINE PURCHASING



(57) Abstract

A system for facilitating, selecting, ordering, and purchasing of products includes a purchase-facilitating, software-implemented computer system located near a buyer, a trade-facilitating hub, and one or more vendors. Using the purchase-facilitating program, the buyer enters business and trade information and also enters information regarding the various products (available from vendors) that the buyer desires to purchase (200). After buyer-information and product-selection information have been entered in the purchase-facilitating program, that information is combined into a composite document which is sent (preferably via facsimile or internet) (228) to the trade-facilitating hub. At the hub, the composite document is converted into multiple documents which are sent to each corresponding vendor. The hub then forwards responses from the vendors to the buyer. If the buyer, hub, and vendors use different languages, then the preferred system translates all correspondence into the appropriate language for the receiving party prior to sending.

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METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR MULTILINGUAL ONLINE PURCHASINGCross-Reference to Related Applications

This application claims priority from U.S. Provisional Patent
5 Application Serial No. 60/006,604 entitled "METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR
FACILITATING SELECTING, ORDERING AND PURCHASING OF
PRODUCTS" filed on November 9, 1995.

Technical Field

The present invention is generally related to a method and a
10 system for facilitating selecting, ordering and purchasing of products. The
invention creates a composite request-for-price-quotation (RFQ) which is
intended to be distributed to multiple vendors, wherein such RFQ is produced
based on a buyer's requirements and preferences. More particularly, the
invention concerns a user interface for a computer system facilitating product
15 selection and purchasing. The invention may also include a language-variable
user interface and product database.

Background

Many types of business entities purchase products for reselling or
distributing. In any particular trade industry, there may be thousands of products
20 available, and for each of those products there may be thousands of varieties and
brands. For example, in the food industry, canned corn may be available in ten
different sizes, in a dozen or more varieties (such as whole kernel, creamy, no salt,
etc.), and in a hundred different brands. Also, there may be hundreds of vendors
that supply canned corn, which vendors may have particular brands, sizes and
25 varieties only during certain parts of the year. To make purchasing decisions, a
buyer has thousands choices for each particular food product.

In addition, once a buyer has selected a product and a vendor, the
buyer must obtain from the vendor an estimate of the supply terms and price.
Presently, this process typically involves a series of letters and faxes sent back-and-

forth between the buyer and each vendor to specify the products available, delivery, price and other supply-related terms.

The complexity of conventional food-product purchasing is exacerbated when products are being imported. As a practical matter, it is difficult for a foreign buyer and domestic vendor to communicate in a timely manner because of language and time-zone differences. For example, a buyer in Germany may wish to purchase canned hams from a vendor in Portland, Oregon, U.S.A. If neither an interpreter or a common language exists, then the language difference will require translation services, which adds cost and time to a time-critical negotiation. The practical result is such a situation is that the German buyer will not even make the request.

Disclosure of the Invention

The invented method and system facilitates a buyer's selection, order and purchase of products, which products are to be shipped from vendors to the buyer. In addition, such trade facilitation is enhanced by a computer system with separate, but interrelated, vendor and product fields in the user interface, wherein the user interface and product database are language-variable.

In its preferred embodiment, the invented system includes a purchase-facilitating, software-implemented computer system at the buyer's site, a trade-facilitating hub and one or more vendors. Using the purchase-facilitating program the buyer enters business and trade information and also enters information regarding the various products (available from vendors) that the buyer would like to purchase. After buyer-information and product-selection information have been entered in the purchase-facilitating program, such information is combined into a composite document. The document is sent (preferably via facsimile or internet) to the trade-facilitating hub.

At the hub, the composite document is converted into multiple documents which are sent to each respective vendor. Such conversion may be done electronically and automatically. The hub then forwards responses from the

vendors to the buyer. If the buyer, hub and vendors use different languages, then the preferred system translates all correspondence into the appropriate language for the receiving party prior to sending.

These and other advantages and objects of the present invention will
5 be more readily understood after consideration of the drawings and the detailed description of the preferred embodiment which follows.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Figs. 1-38 are color screen prints of representative successive screens presented to a buyer during an exemplary execution of a purchase-facilitating
10 program, which program is constructed in accordance with the invented method and system, wherein such screen prints also illustrate the user interface.

Fig. A is a flowchart illustrating a preferred implementation of a purchasing-program, which program is constructed in accordance with the invented system and method and produces the screens illustrated by Figs. 1-38.

Detailed Description of the Drawings and Best Mode for Carrying Out the Invention

The preferred embodiment and implementation of the invented system and method is described in a food-industry application. In particular, it is described below for use by food reselling and distributing businesses. However,
20 those skilled in the art understand that the invention may be used in any industry for any type of user, including an individual consumer who makes product selections via a home-shopping, television or cable network. References to the food industry and food products are presented for illustrative purposes and do not limit applications for the invention to other industries or users.

25 One way to characterize the invention is a product selection and ordering system that allows a buyer to select desired products from a directory of products offered by suppliers, and to transmit an order for such selected products from a corresponding supplier. The system includes a communication network linking such a buyer and such suppliers, which network includes a buyer interface

(also referred to as a user interface). A directory of products offered by the suppliers is also located on the network. The buyer interface allows the buyer to specify a multiple-product order from a buyer-chosen supplier, and to transmit the order to the buyer-chosen supplier.

5 The above invention will be described below in the context of a food-product buyer, or user. That user will use a to-be-described purchase-facilitating program that is loadable on a personal computer. The preferred communication network between the user, to-be-described intermediary or trade-facilitating hub, and suppliers involves a telecommunication network usable via
10 modem communication between the computers of each member of the system, i.e. the user, intermediary and suppliers.

 In general, the preferred purchase-facilitating program, which is constructed in accordance with the preferred embodiment and implementation of the invented system and method, includes three main sections. The first or
15 preliminary section gathers information about the user and their preferences. The second section is the product selection and review, where the user selects desired products. The third or wrap-up section is where the user-specified ordering information is collected, organized and transmitted to a transaction facilitator (also referred to as a trade-facilitating hub or intermediary) for bid distribution.

20 The program will be described by referring to the flowchart in Fig. A and also to the exemplary screens shown in Figs. 1-38. When the program is executed (at 102 in Fig. A), a title screen, shown in Fig. 1, is displayed. At 104 and in Fig. 2, the user is asked to select their language of choice (hereinafter, the local language). The languages available in the preferred embodiments are English,
25 French, Spanish, German, Italian and Portuguese. The local language selected by the user is the language used throughout the remaining execution of the program. All questions asked and information presented will be in the local language of the user. Specifically, a source database exists for each language. Thus, in the preferred embodiment six source databases exist. Each communicative message or

term, such as questions, responses, products, etc., has an indexable code associated with it. Each language's source database has that language's particular interpretation of the code associated message or term.

The following table (TABLE I) illustrates two source databases. A
5 common exemplary and arbitrary index code is provided in the table and each source database has a specific associated term in a particular language:

TABLE I

Code	English	French
123	Cocoa & Milk Modifiers	Cocoa & lait modifiés
129	Diet Food	Produit Diététique
345	Cereal	Cereales

After the local language has been selected, at 106 and 108 the user
10 may review the introduction (see Fig. 1). At 110, and shown in Fig. 4, the user is asked to sign-in or indicate that they are a new user. At 112, the program asks whether the user has previously registered on the program. If so, then an existing record is associated with the user and the program proceeds to the main menu at 200 (see Fig. 13). However, if the user has not previously registered, then the
15 registration module of the program is implemented at 114. At 116 and shown in Fig. 5, the user selects the registration type of their organization. In general, these organizations are either commercial (business) entities or governmental agencies.

More particularly, a commercial entity may be a domestic commercial entity or a foreign importer. In the preferred embodiment of the
20 invention, the Importer is the only classification of commercial entity available. Regarding governmental agencies, the preferred embodiment includes a) U.S. Department of Agriculture Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS); b) U.S. Department of Commerce U.S. & Foreign Commercial Service (FCS); and c) Department of Agriculture (States). Each classification of user has a classification-specific

registration process where only questions related to that particular classification are asked. Of course, the type of user is not limited to those given above and may be extended to include a wide variety of users while remaining within the spirit and scope of the invention. For example, a consumer is a type of user (other than
5 commercial entity and government agency) that is presently envisioned for versions of the invention.

As an example of the registration process, it will be assumed that the user is an Importer. At 118 and shown in Fig. 6, the Importer is asked to identify the specific classification that best identifies their operations. As indicated at 120
10 and shown in Fig. 6, the Importer may select any available classification such as retail chain, wholesaler, buying/trade organization, product-service business (such as a restaurant) or a mass merchandiser. Information requested from the user varies depending on user classification. For example, a buying/trade organization would not be asked how many stores they have, whereas a retail chain would.

15 If the user were an FCS, then a screen such as Fig. 11 would be displayed at block 134 of the program illustrated by Fig. A. After that information is entered, then the user is asked information about the recommended users at 136 (see Fig. 12).

If the user classification is a retail chain, the following information,
20 as shown in Fig. 7, would be requested: company name, company's address (street and mailing), phone number, facsimile number, electronic mail address, total annual sales, imports as a percentage of sales, sales accounts, number of employees and how long the company has been in business. Any of these latter requests (which have down arrows in the figures) include pull-down, pre-defined selections.
25 For example, in response to total annual sales, the user may select any one of a number of ranges such as: (1) less than 5 million, (2) 5 to 20 million, (3) 20 to 50 million and so forth.

After the above general information regarding the company is entered into the program, the Importer is asked, as shown in Fig. 8, for additional

information regarding the particular individual(s) using the system. In addition to the standard identifying information (such as address, phone number, etc.), the individual is asked to select the areas or types of products that the individual is responsible for purchasing. This allows for future options within the system to be personalized to the particular individual within a user entity using it. For example, if an individual indicated that they were responsible for purchasing automobile parts and camping gear for a retail chain, the system would not provide that individual any future information regarding any areas outside of those, unless the individual specifically requested it. Figs. 7 and 8 also show that the program accommodates organization with multiple buyers, and the buyer input block at 122 of Fig. A is depicted in Figs. 7 and 8.

Additional information about the Importer is requested at 124 and such request is shown in Fig. 9. That additional information is particularly useful to the trade-facilitating hub and vendors (or suppliers) in determining whether a business relationship with the Importer is desirable. As shown in Fig. 9, if the user is a retail chain, the user may be asked the number of stores in particular markets (i.e., countries). Also, the user may be asked for their credit references and trade references.

At 126 and shown in Fig. 10, the user provides logistical preferences. The user is asked his or her preferred way of receiving the goods. If the goods are to be imported, the port of importation is selected along with alternative ports if the preferred port is unavailable. Also, the INCO terms of sale are selected (such as Ex Factory, FOB Port of Export, C&F Port of Import, CIF Port of Import and Delivered Duty Paid). The user is also asked to select a preferred carrier and their account number for that carrier. Also, other miscellaneous shipping information is requested.

After the user information is selected and entered into the system, the program returns to the main menu at 200 (see Fig. 13). From the main menu, the user can proceed to one of several other modules, such as the Product Selection

module. From the main menu, the user may preferably select Product Selection module at 202, Previous Selections module at 204, New Products module at 206, Brand Names module at 208, Market Promotion module at 210 and Tutorial module at 212. Also, the user may choose from the Main Menu to modify user registration. Discussion of the Product Selection module will be described.

During the Previous Selections module at 204, the system retrieves and displays for the user a list of previously selected products and the terms of an order for such products. The user is free to remove or add products from the selected list. When finished, this module proceeds to the Product Review module at 220.

During the New Products module at 206, the user is presented with a list of only the new products which are available and the user may select from among those new products. If the user is only interested in the most recent product offerings, then this module is preferred because it eliminates undesired information. The user is periodically provided with an updated list of available products with all new products appropriately labeled. After this module, the user proceeds to the Product Review module at 220.

In the Brand Names module at 208, the user is given a list of available brand names and related information about each brand. In the Market Promotion module at 210, the user is given information regarding various promotional programs that particular manufacturers, vendors or trade organization may be running to encourage purchase of particular products or purchase from particular sources. For example, the U.S. Meat Board may give a ten percent discount on all orders for beef which will ultimately be sold in Japan. This information may help the buyer decide what products to select. In the Tutorial module at 212, the user is taught about how to use the program. After the Brand Names module, Market Promotion module or Tutorial module, the program returns to the main menu at 200.

In general, product selection (at 202, 204 or 206) and product review is the second main section of the program. Within the Product Selection module at 202, the user selects particular products for ordering. Examples of product selection screens are shown in Figs. 14-17. The user may select particular products
5 in a number of different ways. Preferably, the categories of products related to the user's interest area are listed in a hierarchical fashion, and the user may select by navigating through the hierarchy to find a particular product for which they wish to receive a bid from a vendor.

For example, if the user's general interest area includes food and
10 grocery items, the major food-product categories in the hierarchy appears on the screen, as shown in Fig. 14. The major categories may include labels such as bakery items, dairy products, meat, produce, canned goods, frozen foods, etc. If, as shown in Fig. 14, the user selects cereal, then the screen will change, as shown in Fig. 15, to show the minor categories under the major category cereal. The minor
15 categories of cereal may include hot cereals and ready-to-eat cereals. If, as shown in Fig. 15, the user selects ready-to-eat cereal, then the screen will change, as shown in Fig. 16, to show the item list under the minor category of ready-to-eat cereals. The item list of ready-to-eat cereals may include any type of ready-to-eat cereals, such as apple cinnamon toasted oats, bran flakes, cocoa crunches, corn
20 flakes, crisp crunch, crispy rice, fruit rings, etc.

In Fig. 16, the item "CEREAL CRISPY RICE *New*" is highlighted (indicating that it is selected). As is obvious from the designation, "*New*" means the particular item is a new product. Once the user selects this item, it appears in the Product Selection List shown on the right-side of Fig. 16.

25 In general, the user selects particular products for which they want to bid, and those products go into a list called the Product Selection List in which the user will later provide additional information which can be used to request and obtain a user-specified bid.

Another way that the user may find a particular desired product is to use the systems search procedure shown on the right-side of Fig. 16 with a heading: "HS Code or Key Word Search". The user may input a particular product code or the key words related to products and the system will search for them.

5 In the Product Selection module, the user has the option to choose languages other than the one selected at the beginning of the program. This allows the user to see what the products are called in different languages. This may be particularly useful if the user knows the name of a product in one language, but does not know the name in the local language.

10 Fig. 17 shows a Product Selection List after the user has selected three different products. After a list of items has been selected, the program proceeds to block 220, the Product Review module, where the user inputs information about the chosen product, including the time and manner in which the product is to be shipped. The screens and a visual representations of the user-
15 interface of this module are shown in Figs. 18 and 19.

The screen/user-interface (as shown in Figs. 18 and 19) of the Product Review module includes two main sections: the product specification section (shown in Figs. 18 and 19 as a teal-colored, square-shaped information box which is framed in brown) and the supplier-information section (shown in Figs. 18
20 and 19 as a blue-colored, dipper-shaped information box which is also framed in brown).

The program correlates user-specified information so that information entered or selected in one of the program sections may affect the information displayed in another section. On the top of the Product Review screen
25 (as shown in Figs. 18 and 19) next to the heading "Product Description" is the particular product from the Product Selection List (created in the Product Selection module). The user may change which of the products from the list is for the Product Review. For example, Fig. 18 shows the "CORN WHOLE KERNEL" is the product of the list for this Product Review.

The product specification section includes options related to designating the specifics of the product that the user wishes to order. For example, the option may include the following: package size, grade of the product and brand of the product. In addition, the user may select either the metric or English system to display units of measurement. Selecting particular options may cause other information in this and the supplier section to change. For example as shown in Fig. 19, if the product is corn whole kernel, the user may select an eight ounce package, a grade of Grade A Fancy and a brand such as NATURE'S PRIDE. As shown in Fig. 19, once a particular brand is selected, an image or picture of the particular product appears in a small product window so that the user may see what the product actually looks like. As seen in Fig. 19, the dimensions of the case and pallet used to transport the particular product appears in the product specification section.

The program also allows the user to simplify or limit their choice. For example, it is not necessary for the user to select a particular brand or a particular grade. If they choose, they can select "ALL" for brand and grade to leave their options open to any brand or any grade of that available product. In addition, the user can also leave open the option of product size or the user can specify product size.

Alternatively, as part of the product specification process, the user may be presented with a series of images, with each image representing the particular brand of a product being reviewed. The user may select the particular brand of the product they want by clicking on the image or selecting the image they desire.

Also presented on the screen/user-interface shown in Fig. 19 is a supplier-information section. Included in supplier-information is the following: a) an order/acquisition calendar; b) an option to see other products available from a particular supplier; c) supplier-specific information; and d) a map depicting the country or region in which the suppliers are located.

The order/acquisition calendar typically includes a series of colorable boxes numbered 1 through 12 (for each month of the year) which indicate the availability or other information related to the product selected from a particular supplier. For example, as shown in Figs. 18 and 19, the order/acquisition calendar includes three specific calendars, namely, a production calendar, an available-to-ship calendar and a best-time-to-order calendar. When a particular supplier or suppliers have been selected, these calendars indicate when orders may be received and shipment expected. In the example shown in Fig. 19, the product from the particular supplier is produced in months 8 and 9 (i.e., August and September), is available all-year-round, and is best ordered from May through July.

Also included in the supplier-information section is an option to see other products available from a particular supplier. Also, when a particular supplier is selected, additional information regarding that supplier may be presented. Such information may include certifications or other trade or product-related material. That information may also include a list of ingredients or components found in a particular product from a particular supplier. Even though the user has selected a particular product, an individual supplier may have ingredients and components that vary from other suppliers. For example as shown in Fig. 19, the ingredients of NATURE'S PRIDE brand, Grade A Fancy, whole kernel corn may include: corn, water, sugar and salt. Another supplier may include additional items or fewer items (for example, may not include sugar).

Also included in the supplier-information section is a corresponding map. For example, and as depicted in Figs. 18 and 19, the products are being shipped from the United States so a map of the United States is shown. The map may be any geographic or stylized map. In a preferred embodiment, the map is a map of the United States, and on the map are a plurality of cartographically-positioned indicia (e.g., colored dots) indicating the geographical location of particular suppliers. The dots may be colored in such a manner to indicate whether a supplier supplies a particular product. When particular products are selected

under the product selection screen, dots related to suppliers which do not provide that product dim or turn-off. For example, the map in Fig. 18 includes ten white dots meaning that all ten suppliers provide the product. But after the user selects particular specifications of the product, some of the dots dim (e.g., become gray) to
5 indicate that those suppliers do not have the particular product specified in the product-specification section. As shown in Fig. 19, three supplier-indicating dots are dimmed.

To designate a particular supplier, the user selects the supplier from a pull-down menu in the supplier-information section such as by clicking with a
10 computer mouse the dot on the map corresponding to the supplier. As shown in Fig. 19, when a particular supplier is selected its corresponding dot is highlighted (preferably in red).

Information entered and selected in either section of the Product Review screen/user-interface (shown in Figs. 18 and 19) affects whether and what
15 information is displayed in both sections. As demonstrated above, there is a relationship between product-specification information and supplier information.

Referring to the Product Review module at 220 in Fig. A, and after the user has selected and entered product specification and supplier information, the user is asked to provide more detailed information on shipping the product. As
20 shown in Fig. 20, after the user has asked for the particular item to be added to the bid request, the user is asked for additional shipping information. Next, as shown in Fig. 21, the user is asked their interest level. This informs the vendors how serious the user is and how likely the user is to be a future and frequent customer. Next, as shown in Fig. 22, the user is asked to provide additional logistical
25 information.

After the Product Review module is completed, the user is asked to review all of the information for accuracy, and is asked to enter any additional information which would go to the suppliers in a bid. In the preferred embodiment, the program proceeds to the Selection Review module at 222 (or 226) (see Figs.

23-36). The user is asked to review all information related to the user and the requested products. Figs. 23-36 show the various screens and options preferably available.

At 224 and as shown in Fig. 37, the information entered by the user
5 is collected into a composite request-for-price-quotation (RFQ) document which will be transmitted (or delivered) to the trade-facilitating hub. That document may be reviewed by the user in their local language, but when the document is transmitted, the program allows for it to be transmitted in the language of the hub. For example, if the user is French, they will be reviewing a document in French,
10 but when the document is actually sent to the hub in the United States, the document is sent in English. Preferably, the document is transmitted via facsimile (telecopy) or across the internet via e-mail (as indicated at 228 of Fig. A). Of course, the document may also be sent in any desired way such as by mail or courier.

15 Once the hub receives the RFQ, the invention allows for official bid documents (also called trade leads) to be created for each particular supplier where each lead only includes information relevant to that particular supplier. In other words, if the user asked for car batteries and green beans, the supplier of green beans would not receive any information regarding the request for car batteries. An
20 example of such a lead is shown in Fig. 38. The leads received by suppliers include information about the user company including financial-related information such as credit and trade references. To complete the communication, the hub would then receive bid-responsive information back from the suppliers, and transmit that information to the user in the user's local language.

25 The preferred embodiment of this system includes a software program at a user's site with an IBM-compatible or MACINTOSH microcomputer. Furthermore, the program is preferably written for use with an operating system having a graphical user interface, such as WINDOWS, WINDOWS 95, WINDOWS NT, OS/2 WARP or SYSTEM 7.x. Also, the program is preferably

written in Visual Basic or Delphi 32. However, an programmer of ordinary skill understands that such program may be written any suitable programming language for use with any operating system. Preferably, the computer includes a modem for transmitting a facsimile or electronic mail. Alternatively, a facsimile document
5 may be printed and then facsimiled through a conventional facsimile machine or via the conventional mail system. The receiver of the information is the trade-facilitating hub which has a business relationship with the user and with a large group of vendors.

Also, the preferred embodiment of the program used by the user,
10 which program is constructed in accordance with the invention may be described the following outline:

**Screen Definitions for the User Program
In Its Preferred Embodiment**

- I. Title Screen
 - 15 A. Purpose
 - 1. initiates Project Harvest Usage
 - B. Operation
 - 1. program opens to Title Screen when user initiates Project Harvest
 - 20 2. displays logo & product title with "SM" notation
 - 3. displays user sign-in text box
 - a. user enters name
 - b. if system doesn't recognize name, user taken to User Registration screens
 - 25 c. if system recognizes name, user taken to Main Menu Screen
 - C. Buttons
 - 1. view introduction
 - a. takes user to introduction screens

2. sign-in
 - a. takes user into User Registration screens
- D. Pop-up Window
 1. copyright statement
- 5 E. References to drawings
 1. blocks 102-112 in Fig. A
 2. Figs. 1-4
- II. Introduction System
 - A. Purpose
 - 10 1. informs user about ITG and Project Harvest
 - B. Operation
 1. currently under development and inactive
 - C. References to drawings
 1. blocks 106 and 108 in Fig. A
- 15 III. User Registration Screen
 - A. Purpose
 1. separates users into private and public sector registrations
 - B. Operation
 1. user clicks a button to identify his operating sector
 - 20 C. Buttons
 1. commercial users/foreign country importer
 2. governmental agencies/foreign agricultural service
 3. governmental agencies/foreign commercial service
 4. governmental agencies/states
 - 25 5. previous
 6. continue
 - D. References to drawings
 1. blocks 114 and 116 of Fig. A
 2. Fig. 5

IV. Commercial Users/Foreign Country Importer Screen**A. Purpose**

1. identifies user's private sector operations

B. Operation

- 5 1. user clicks a button to identify his business type

C. Buttons

1. retail chain
2. wholesaler
3. buying/trading organization
- 10 4. food service
5. mass merchandiser
6. previous
7. continue

D. References to drawings

- 15 1. blocks 116 and 118 in Fig. A
2. Figs. 5 and 6

V. Commercial Users/Foreign Country Importer/Retail Chain**A. Purpose**

- 20 1. collects user registration information specific to retail chain operations

B. Operation

1. information gathered by entering text data or making selections from pull-down menus

C. Buttons

- 25 1. previous
2. continue

D. References to drawings

1. blocks 118 and 120 in Fig. A
2. Fig. 6

VI. Commercial Users/Foreign Country Importer/Retail Chain - Company Information Screen

A. Purpose

1. collects information about registered user's company

5

B. Operation

1. information gathered by text data entry, pull-down menus and/or operating range selections

C. Buttons

10

1. previous
2. continue

D. References to drawings

1. block 122 in Fig. A
2. Fig. 7

VII. Commercial Users/Foreign Country Importer/Retail Chain - Buyer Contact Screen

15

A. Purpose

1. collects information about registered user's buyer contacts

B. Operation

20

1. information gathered by text data entry, pull-down menus and/or operating range selections

C. Buttons

1. previous
2. continue

D. References to drawings

25

1. block 122 in Fig. A
2. Fig. 8

VIII. Commercial Users/Foreign Country Importer/Retail Chain - Operations Profile Screen

A. Purpose

1. collects information about registered user's company operations
 - B. Operation
 1. information gathered by text data entry, pull-down menus and/or operating range selections
 - C. Buttons
 1. previous
 2. continue
 - D. References to drawings
 1. block 124 in Fig. A
 2. Fig. 9
- IX. Commercial Users/Foreign Country Importer/Retail Chain - Logistical Preferences Screen
- A. Purpose
 1. collects information about registered user's preferred shipping arrangements
 - B. Operation
 1. information gathered by text data entry, pull-down menus and/or operating range selections
 - C. Buttons
 1. previous
 2. continue
 - D. References to drawings
 1. block 126 in Fig. A
 2. Fig. 10
- X. Commercial Users/Foreign Country Importer/Wholesaler
- A. Purpose
 1. collects user registration information specific to wholesale distribution operations

- B. Operation
 - 1. currently under development and inactive
- XI. Commercial Users/Foreign Country Importer/Buying-Trading Organization
 - A. Purpose
 - 5 1. collects user registration information specific to large scale procurement operations
 - B. Operation
 - 1. currently under development and inactive
- XII. Commercial User/Foreign Country Importer/Food Service
 - 10 A. Purpose
 - 1. collects user registration information specific to food service distribution operations
 - B. Operation
 - 1. currently under development and inactive
- 15 XIII. Commercial Users/Foreign Country Importer/Mass Merchandiser
 - A. Purpose
 - 1. collects user registration information specific to drug & non-food distribution operations
 - B. Operation
 - 20 1. currently under development and inactive
- XIV. Governmental Agencies/Foreign Agricultural Service
 - A. Purpose
 - 1. identifies user's public sector operations on behalf of U.S. Department of Agriculture
 - 25 2. identifies local private sector companies as potential Project Harvest users
 - B. Operation
 - 1. information gathered by text data entry, pull-down menus and/or operating range selections

C. Buttons

1. previous
2. continue

D. References to drawings

- 5 1. blocks 130 and 132 in Fig. A

XV. Governmental Agencies/Foreign Commercial Service

A. Purpose

1. identifies user's public sector operations on behalf of U.S. Department of Commerce
- 10 2. identifies local private sector companies as potential Project Harvest users

B. Operation

1. information gathered by text data entry, pull-down menus and/or operating range selections

15 C. Buttons

1. previous
2. continue

D. References to drawings

1. blocks 134 and 136 in Fig. A
- 20 2. Figs. 11 and 12

XVI. Governmental Agencies/State Department of Agriculture

A. Purpose

1. identifies user's public sector operations on behalf of U.S. states
- 25 2. identifies local private sector companies as potential Project Harvest users

B. Operation

1. currently under development and inactive

C. Buttons

1. previous
 2. continue
 - D. References to drawings
 1. blocks 138 and 140 in Fig. A
- 5 XVII. Main Menu
 - A. Purpose
 1. opens program to numerous user-valuable modules
 - B. Operation
 1. user clicks button to enter desired module
 - 10 C. Buttons
 1. product selection
 2. brands
 3. previous selections
 4. market promotion programs
 - 15 5. modify user registration
 6. tutorial
 7. view new items
 8. previous
 9. continue
 - 20 D. References to drawings
 1. block 200 in Fig. A
 2. Fig. 13
- XVIII.Brands Screen
 - A. Purpose
 - 25 1. informs user about relative market positioning of brand labels
offered vis-a-vis product quality
 - B. Operation
 1. currently under development and inactive
 - C. References to drawings

1. block 208 in Fig. A

XIX. Previous Selection Screen

A. Purpose

- 5 1. allows user to retrieve previously saved product selection list
 and/or search string

B. Operation

1. currently under development and inactive

C. References to drawings

1. block 204 in Fig. A

10 XX. Market Promotion Programs Screen

A. Purpose

1. inform user about special export promotion programs offered
by industry trade boards

B. Operation

- 15 1. currently under development and inactive

C. References to drawings

1. block 210 in Fig. A

XXI. Modify User Registration Screen

A. Purpose

- 20 1. allows user to return to registration screens to update/change
previous entries

B. Operation

1. user clicks button to return to first screen of his user
registration type

25 C. References to drawings

1. block 114 in Fig. A

XXII. Tutorial Screen

A. Purpose

1. inform user about special export promotion programs offered by industry trade boards
 - B. Operation
 1. currently under development and inactive
 - 5 C. References to drawings
 1. block 212 in Fig. A
- XXIII. View New Products Screen
- A. Purpose
 1. identifies for user new products added to this version/update of Project Harvest
 - 10 B. Operation
 1. currently under development and inactive
 - C. References to drawings
 1. block 206 in Fig. A
- 15 XXIV. Product selection Screen
- A. Purpose
 1. allows user to identify specific products of interest for further review
 - B. Operation
 - 20 1. all products classified by major category, minor category and item list
 2. macro search
 - a. user scrolls major categories and clicks on choice to open minor categories
 - 25 b. user scrolls minor categories and clicks on choice to open item list
 - c. user scrolls item list and clicks on product to move it to move it to product selection list

25

- d. user repeats process to build full list of product selections
- 3. key word search
 - a. user enters combination of words which computer searches against all product descriptions
 - (1) can use wild card operators - and, or, not, etc.
 - b. all matches appear in item list
 - c. user scrolls item list and clicks on product to move it to product selection list
 - 10 d. user repeats process to build full list of product selections
- 4. hs (harmonized system) search
 - a. user enters up to 6 digits of hs code which computer searches against all product hs codes
 - 15 (1) can use (asterisk) wild card operator
 - b. all matches appear in item list
 - c. user scrolls item list and clicks on product to move it to product selection list
 - 20 d. user repeats process to build full list of product selections
- C. Buttons
 - 1. view all products
 - a. enables user to scroll major/minor/products for all products in database
 - 25 2. view new products
 - a. enables user to scroll major/minor/products for products new to current version
 - 3. remove item
 - 4. clear list

- 5. product review
 - a. advance user to next screen
 - 6. main menu
 - D. Pull-Down
 - 5 1. search language
 - a. allows user to change on the fly language of major/minor/product display to
 - (1) English
 - (2) French
 - 10 (3) German
 - (4) Spanish
 - (5) Italian
 - (6) Portuguese
 - E. References to drawings
 - 15 1. block 202 in Fig. A
 - 2. Figs. 14-17
- XXV. Product Review Screen
- A. Purpose
 - 1. allows user to review all details of supplier product offerings
 - 20 B. Operation
 - 1. program searches database and displays product information based on user input
 - a. user inputs through pull-down menus and button-controlled pop-up windows
 - 25 2. information displays in color graphics and text boxes
 - 3. user selects product for review from product description pull-down
 - a. dots representing all suppliers capable of supplying product appear on map

4. user selects package size from pull-down
 - a. dots of suppliers incapable of supplying chosen package size dimmed/inactivated on map
 - b. program defaults to display of metric size equivalent
 - c. user can change on the fly between metric and English units
5. user selects product from pull-down
 - a. dots of suppliers incapable of supplying chosen grade dimmed/inactivated on map
10. user selects brand from pull-down
 - a. dots of suppliers incapable of supplying chosen brand dimmed/inactivated on map
15. user clicks on remaining supplier dots to display specific supplier information
 - a. assists user in differentiating between available suppliers
 - (1) supplier information
 - (2) ingredients
 - (3) nutritional information
 - (4) product procurement calendar
 - (5) case and pallet dimensions
20. user displays detail or brand label by clicking on picture to zoom in/zoom out
- C. Buttons
25. 1. add this product
 - a. opens pop-up windows for accumulation of additional user input
 - b. adds product and user inputs to list for incorporation into RFQ

2. comments
 3. print this screen
 4. clear screen
 5. next product
 - 5 6. previous product
 7. product selection
 8. exit review
 - a. option 1: resume from point of interruption
 - b. option 2: resume from beginning of review list
- 10 D. Pop-Up Windows
1. capture user input about the product
 - a. user interest level
 - b. specific product requirements
 - c. timing of order initiation
 - 15 d. desired target price
 - e. samples requested
 - f. label production assistance
- E. References to drawings
1. block 220 in Fig. A
 - 20 2. Figs. 18-22
- XXVI.Import Comments
- A. Purpose
1. allows user to communicate specific needs relative to entire RFQ and/or ultimate purchase order
- 25 B. Operation
1. free flow text entry field
 2. pre-set list of question with yes/no radio button answers
- C. Buttons
1. previous

2. continue
3. product review

XXVII. Selection Review

- A. Purpose
 - 5 1. allows user to review all input selections prior to compilation into RFQ
- B. Operation
 1. if user chooses not to review, program accepts selections as inputted, and:
 - 10 a. prepares print output of preformatted fax RFQ, or
 - b. prepares text file for RFQ transmission as e-mail
 2. if user chooses to review, goes to review pop-ups
- C. Buttons
 1. review
 - 15 2. e-mail
 3. print/fax
- D. Pop-up Windows
 1. company information
 - a. user can change information in these text fields, pull-down menus on this pop-up
 - 20 2. buyer contacts
 - a. user can change information in these text fields, pull-down menus on this pop-up logistical preferences
 3. logistical preferences
 - 25 a. user can change information in these text fields, pull-down menus on this pop-up
 4. product selections
 - a. only information in text fields and pull-down menus can be changed on this pop-up

- b. user returned to Product Review screen to change information derived from product database
- 5. importer comments
 - a. user can change information in these text fields, pull-down menus on this pop-up

- A. References to drawings
 - 1. blocks 222 and 226 in Fig. A
 - 2. Figs. 23-36

XXVIII. Creation and Transmission of RFQ

- 10 A. Purpose
 - 1. Compiles information into an RFQ and transmits RFQ to trade-facilitating hub
- B. Operation
 - 1. if RFQ was not already created, RFQ is created
 - 15 2. user may choose to review RFQ in local language
 - 3. transmits or prints RFQ via:
 - a. fax
 - b. electronic mail (via internet)
 - c. mailing a hardcopy

- 20 A. References to drawings
 - 1. blocks 224 and 228 in Fig. A
 - 2. Figs. 37 and 38

Another way of understanding the invention is using software which would be used at the user's site. Attached to the priority application are four 3½" diskettes containing a user program made in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention. A microcomputer must at least have the following technical specifications effectively to run this program: IBM-compatible Personal Computer (PC) with VGA graphics capability (minimum resolution of 640 x 480)

and with MICROSOFT WINDOWS 3.1 or later (or equivalent) operating system.

To load the program the following instructions should be followed:

1. In File Manager, create a new directory called "ITG" under drive C;
2. In File Manager, copy the entire contents of diskettes 1-4 into the
5 ITG directory;
3. Return to Program Manager;
4. Create a new Group and call it "PROJECT HARVEST" by typing
that name in the Description box;
5. In the Command Line box type the following:
10 "C:\ITG\MTB30RUN.EXE IPR1031Z.TBK";
6. Click on Change Icon button; Click on the Browse button and go to
the ITG directory; In that directory, select "ITG.ICO";
7. Click on OK buttons to return to Program Manager's main screen;
8. An ITG icon should be seen in the "PROJECT HARVEST" group;
15 the program may be executed by double-clicking on the icon; note
that some buttons are inactive.

While the preferred embodiment and best mode of the invention have been disclosed, variations and changes may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

I CLAIM:

1. A product selection and ordering system that allows a buyer to select desired products from a directory of products offered by suppliers, and to transmit an order for such selected products from a corresponding supplier, comprising:

a communication network linking such a buyer and such suppliers, which network includes a buyer interface;

a directory of products offered by the suppliers, which directory is located on the network; and

wherein the buyer interface allows the buyer to specify a multiple-product order from a buyer-chosen supplier, and to transmit the order to the buyer-chosen supplier.

2. The system of paragraph 1, wherein the network also links an intermediary with the buyer and suppliers, and the network includes an intermediary interface that allows the intermediary to receive the multiple-product order from the buyer and to transmit the multiple-product order to the buyer-chosen supplier.

3. The system of paragraph 1 wherein the buyer interface allows the buyer to specify plural multiple-product orders from buyer-chosen suppliers, and to transmit together the plural multiple-product orders to the buyer-chosen suppliers.

4. The system of paragraph 2 wherein the buyer interface allows the buyer to specify plural multiple-product orders from buyer-chosen suppliers, and to transmit together the plural multiple-product orders to the intermediary, and the intermediary interface allows the intermediary to receive the plural multiple-product orders from the buyer, and to transmit the multiple-product orders to the buyer-chosen suppliers.

5. The system of paragraph 4 wherein the network links plural buyers and includes plural buyer interfaces.

6. A method of allowing a buyer to select desired products from a directory of products offered by suppliers, and to order such selected products from a corresponding supplier, comprising:

providing a communication network linking such a buyer and such suppliers;

including in the network a buyer interface;

placing on the network a directory of products offered by the suppliers; and

allowing the buyer to specify a multiple-product order from a buyer-chosen supplier, and to transmit the order to the buyer-chosen supplier.

7. The method of paragraph 6, wherein the providing step further includes the substep of making a network link with an intermediary, and wherein the method further includes having an intermediary interface on the network to allow the intermediary to receive the multiple-product order from the buyer and to transmit the multiple-product order to the buyer-chosen supplier.

8. The method of paragraph 6 wherein the including step includes a buyer interface that allows the buyer to specify plural multiple-product orders from buyer-chosen suppliers, and to transmit together the plural multiple-product orders to the buyer-chosen suppliers.

9. The method of paragraph 7 wherein the including step includes a buyer interface that allows the buyer to specify plural multiple-product orders from buyer-chosen suppliers, and to transmit together the plural multiple-product orders to the intermediary, and the making substep includes making an intermediary interface that allows the intermediary to receive the plural multiple-product orders from the buyer, and to transmit the multiple-product orders to the buyer-chosen suppliers.

10. The method of paragraph 4 wherein the providing step provides a communication network that links plural buyers and includes plural buyer interfaces.

11. A language-variable product selection and ordering system that allows a buyer to select desired products from a directory of products offered by suppliers, and to transmit an order for such selected products from a corresponding supplier, comprising:

a communication network linking such a buyer and such suppliers, which network includes a buyer interface;

a directory of products offered by the suppliers, which directory is located on the network;

a language translator located on the network for translating the directory into a buyer-chosen language, and for translating such an order; and

wherein the buyer interface allows the buyer to choose a language for the directory, to review the directory in the buyer-chosen language, to specify a multiple-product order from a buyer-chosen supplier, to choose a language for the order, and to transmit the order to the buyer-chosen supplier.

12. The system of paragraph 11 wherein the directory exists in a code that is not a language spoken by humans.

13. A language-variable product selection and ordering system that allows a buyer to select desired products from a directory of products offered by suppliers, and to transmit an order for such selected products from a corresponding supplier, comprising:

a communication network linking such a buyer, such suppliers and an intermediary, which network includes a buyer interface and an intermediary interface;

a directory of products offered by the suppliers, which directory is located on the network;

a language translator located on the network for translating the directory into a buyer-chosen language; and

wherein the buyer interface allows the buyer to choose a language for the directory, to review the directory in the buyer-chosen language, to specify a multiple-product order from a buyer-chosen supplier, and the intermediary interface allows the intermediary to receive the multiple-product order from the buyer and to transmit the multiple-product order to the buyer-chosen supplier.

14. The system of paragraph 13 wherein the buyer interface allows the buyer to specify plural multiple-product orders from buyer-chosen suppliers, and to transmit together the plural multiple-product orders to the intermediary.

15. The system of paragraph 14 wherein the buyer interface allows the buyer to specify plural multiple-product orders from buyer-chosen suppliers, and to transmit together the plural multiple-product orders to the intermediary, and the intermediary interface allows the intermediary to receive together the plural multiple-product orders from the buyer, and to transmit the multiple-product orders to the buyer-chosen suppliers.

16. The system of paragraph 15 wherein the network links plural buyers and includes plural buyer interfaces.

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ITG Project Harvest

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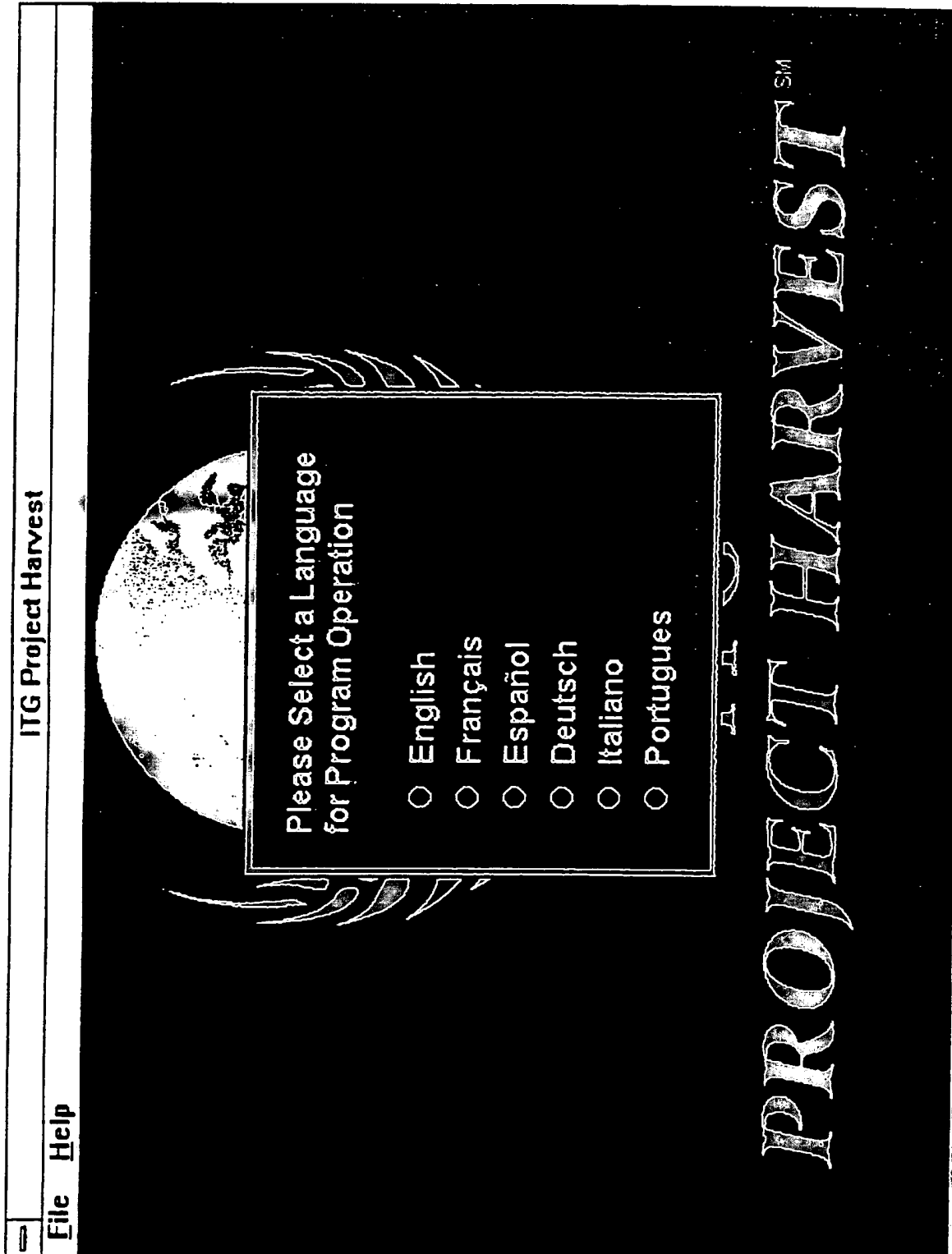


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PROJECT HARVESTSM

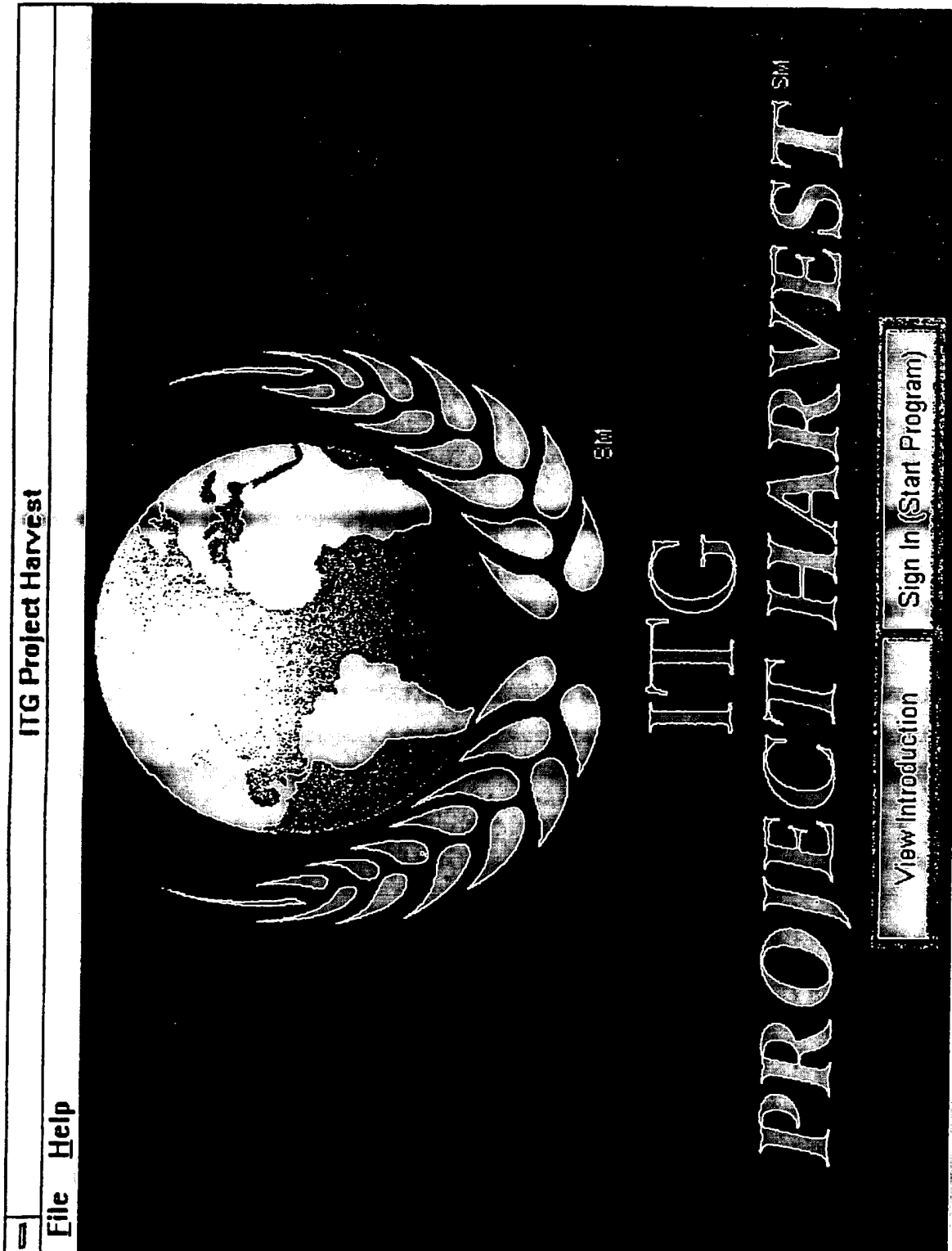
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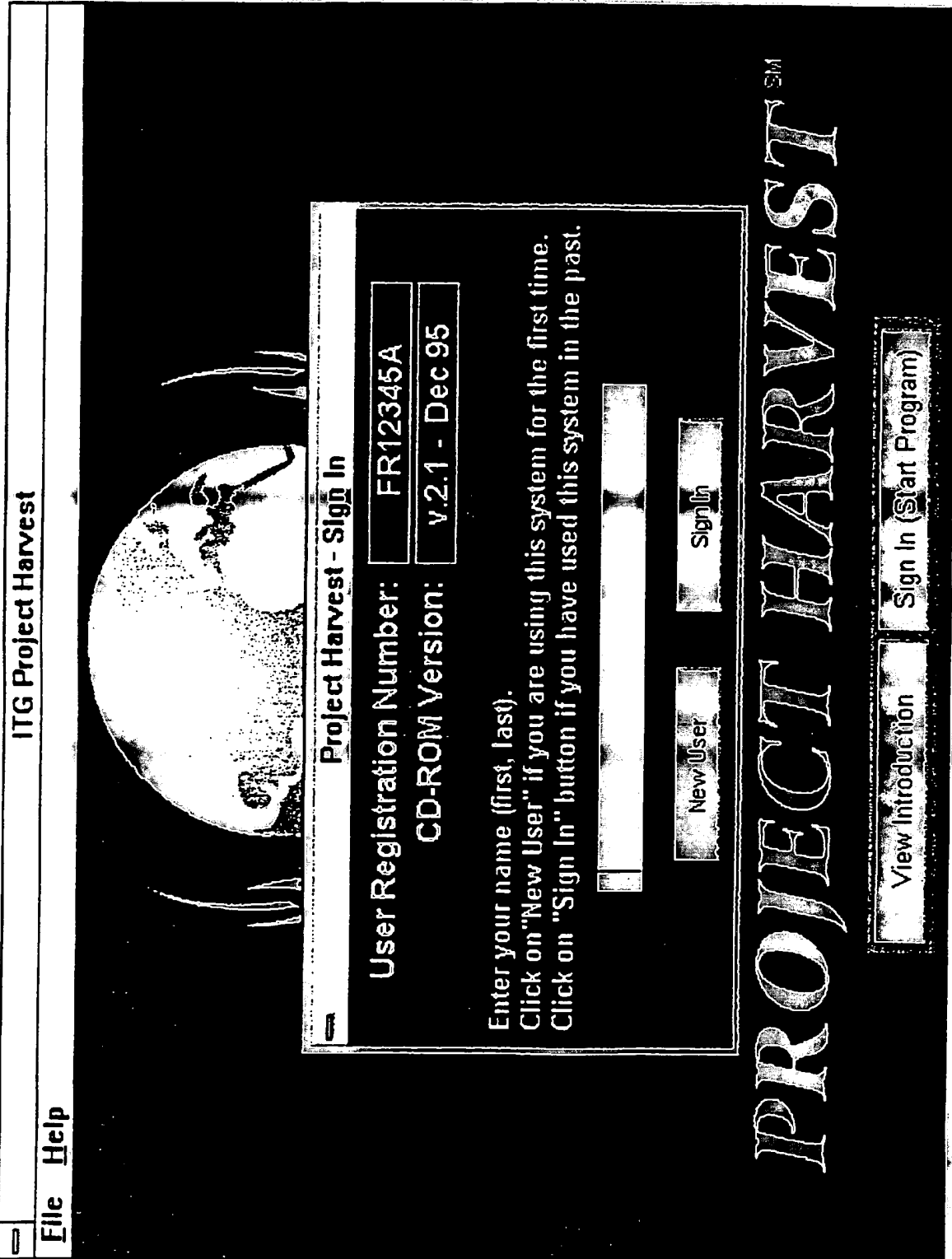
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User Registration





ITG

Select Your Registration Type

Commercial Users	<input type="checkbox"/> Importer	<input type="checkbox"/> Foreign Country Importer
Governmental Agencies	<input type="checkbox"/> FAS	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Department of Agriculture Foreign Agricultural Service
	<input type="checkbox"/> FCS	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Department of Commerce U.S. & Foreign Commercial Service
	<input type="checkbox"/> States	<input type="checkbox"/> Department of Agriculture


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ITG Project Harvest											
File	Help										
 <h1>User Registration</h1>											
<h2>Foreign Country Importers</h2> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Retail Chain</td> <td>Retail Food Product Stores</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wholesaler</td> <td>Wholesale Distribution to Food Retailers</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Buying/Trading Organization</td> <td>Cooperative Procurement Organization</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Food Services</td> <td>Wholesale Distribution to Food Services Industry</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mass Merchandiser</td> <td>Drug & Non-Food Retailer</td> </tr> </table>		Retail Chain	Retail Food Product Stores	Wholesaler	Wholesale Distribution to Food Retailers	Buying/Trading Organization	Cooperative Procurement Organization	Food Services	Wholesale Distribution to Food Services Industry	Mass Merchandiser	Drug & Non-Food Retailer
Retail Chain	Retail Food Product Stores										
Wholesaler	Wholesale Distribution to Food Retailers										
Buying/Trading Organization	Cooperative Procurement Organization										
Food Services	Wholesale Distribution to Food Services Industry										
Mass Merchandiser	Drug & Non-Food Retailer										
											

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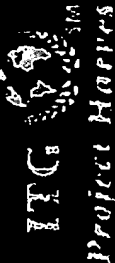
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ITG Project Harvest	
File Help	
	
User Registration	
Use the spaces below to provide information about your company. NOTE: Once you have completed a line of information, use the TAB key to continue.	
Retail Food Chain - Company Information	
Company Name <input type="text"/>	
Street Address <input type="text"/>	Mailing Address <input type="text"/>
City <input type="text"/>	City <input type="text"/>
State <input type="text"/>	State <input type="text"/>
Country <input type="text"/>	Country <input type="text"/>
Postal Code <input type="text"/>	Postal Code <input type="text"/>
Phone # <input type="text"/>	E-Mail <input type="text"/>
Fax # <input type="text"/>	
Total Annual Sales <input type="text"/>	Imports as % of Sales <input type="text"/>
Retail Stores <input type="text"/>	No. Employees <input type="text"/>
How Long in Business <input type="text"/>	
Click on the "Continue" button after you have completed the information above.	
<input type="button" value="Previous"/>	<input type="button" value="Continue"/>

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ITC Project Harvest		ITG Project Harvest	
File Help			



ITC Project Harvest

User Registration

Primary Contact	Buyer No. 1	Buyer No. 2	Buyer No. 3	Buyer No. 4	Buyer No. 5	More Buyers
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>Name</p> <p>Title</p> <p>Phone #</p> <p>Fax #</p> <p>Street Address</p> <p>City</p> <p>State</p> <p>Country</p> <p>Postal Code</p> <p>Full E-Mail Address</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Send a copy of CD-ROM</p> </div> <div style="width: 50%;"> <p>PRODUCT BUYING RESPONSIBILITY</p> <p>Remove Item Clear List</p> <p>MAJOR CATEGORY Bakery Items</p> <p>MINOR CATEGORY</p> <p>Bread</p> <p>Buns</p> <p>Cookies</p> <p>Donuts</p> <p>Muffins</p> <p>Pastries</p> <p>SELECT YOUR PRODUCT BUYING RESPONSIBILITY</p> </div> </div>						

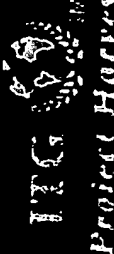
Previous

Click on the "Continue" button after you have completed the information above.

Continue

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 User Registration ITG Project Harvest	
Retail Food Chain - Operations Profile	
Retail Store Locations Select Country Markets <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> Credit References <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;">Bank</div> <div style="width: 45%;"></div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;">Contact</div> <div style="width: 45%;">FAX</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;">Account</div> <div style="width: 45%;"></div> </div> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> Trade References <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;">Company</div> <div style="width: 45%;"></div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;">Contact</div> <div style="width: 45%;">FAX</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;">Company</div> <div style="width: 45%;"></div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;">Contact</div> <div style="width: 45%;">FAX</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;">Company</div> <div style="width: 45%;"></div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;">Contact</div> <div style="width: 45%;">FAX</div> </div> </div> </div>
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div> </div> <div style="width: 45%; text-align: right;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Remove Item</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Clear List</div> </div> </div>	
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Previous</div> </div> <div style="width: 45%; text-align: right;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Continue</div> </div> </div>	

Click on the "Continue" button after you have completed the information above.

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User Registration	
Retail Food Chain - Logistical Preferences	
Preferred <input type="text"/>	Sample Policy Product samples are available upon request. They will be shipped to the Registered User FREIGHT COLLECT. An alternative size containing the same product quality will be substituted if the requested package size is not available. Samples delivered by:
Alternative <input type="text"/>	Carrier <input type="text"/> Acct No. <input type="text"/> If multiple samples are requested, please ship: <input type="radio"/> Direct from individual suppliers <input type="radio"/> Via sample consolidation service
INCO Terms of Sale <input type="radio"/> Ex Factory <input type="radio"/> CIF Port of Import <input type="radio"/> FOB Port of Export <input type="radio"/> Delivered Duty Paid <input type="radio"/> C&F Port of Import	
Preferred Service Suppliers	
International Bank <input type="text"/>	Steamship Line <input type="text"/>
Courier Service <input type="text"/>	Freight Forwarder <input type="text"/>
Airfreight Forwarder <input type="text"/>	Customs Broker <input type="text"/>
	Marine Insurance <input type="text"/>
<input type="button" value="Previous"/>	<input type="button" value="Continue"/>

Click on the "Continue" button after you have completed the information above.

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ITG Project Harvest	
File	Help



User Registration

Use the spaces below to provide information about yourself.
NOTE: Once you have completed a line of information, use the TAB key to continue.

Country	
Post Designation	
Officer	
Title	
Post Location	
Street Address	
City	
Mailing Address	
City	
Telephone No.	
FAX No.	

U.S. &
Foreign
Commercial
Service


Previous

Continue

Click on the "Continue" button after you have completed the information above.

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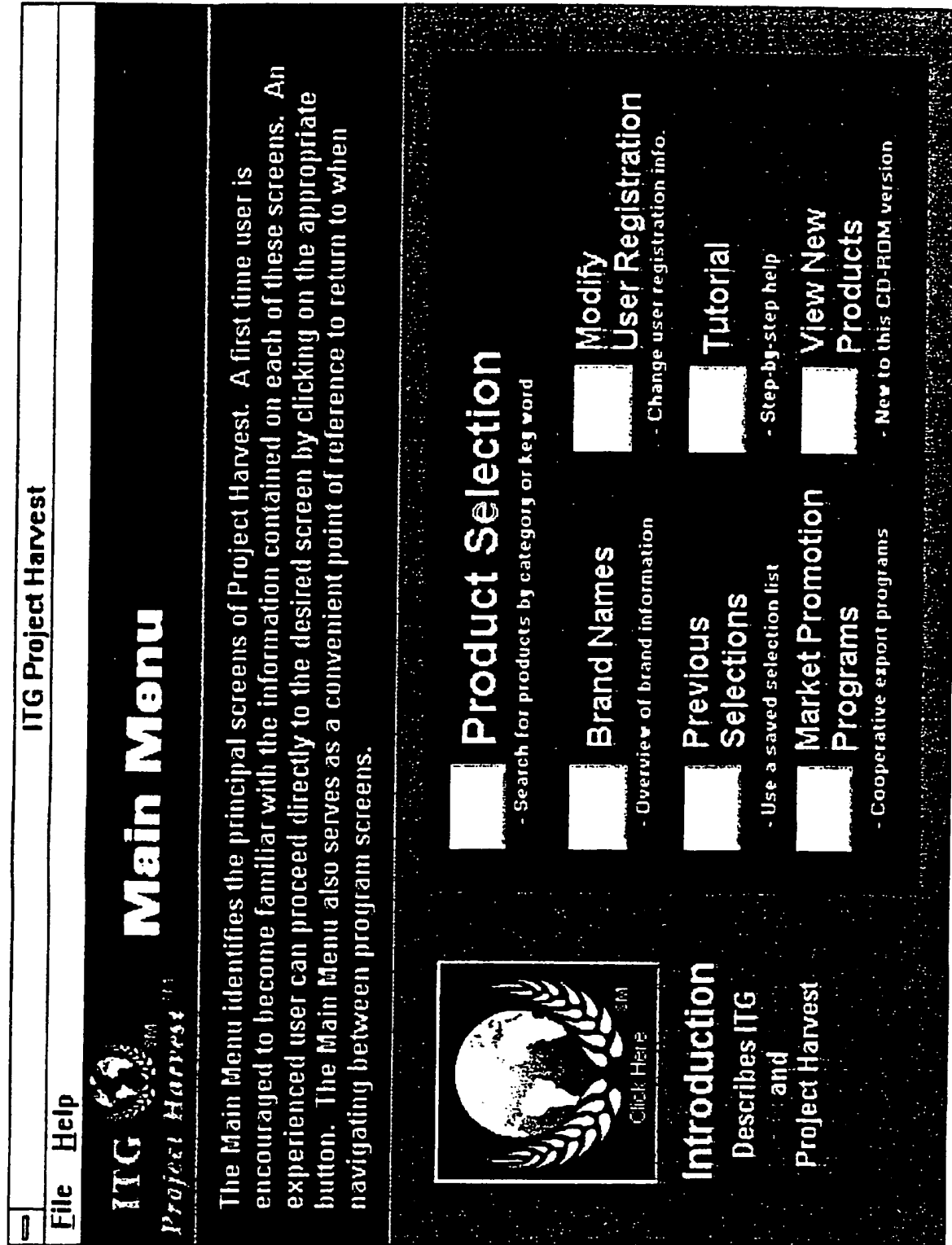
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ITG Project Harvest	
File	Help
 <h1>User Registration</h1>	
Use the spaces below to provide information about yourself. NOTE: Once you have completed a line of information, use the TAB key to continue.	
<h2>Recommended Potential Users</h2>	
Potential User 1	Potential User 2
Company	Company
Contact	Contact
Phone #	Phone #
Fax #	Fax #
Street Address	Street Address
Country	Country
City	City
State	State
Reason	Reason
<input type="button" value="Previous User"/>	<input type="button" value="Next User"/>
<input type="button" value="Continue"/>	

Click on the "Continue" button after you have completed the information above.


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ITG Project Harvest		ITG Project Harvest	
File	Help	MAIN MENU	
 Product Selection			
MAJOR CATEGORY Cereal Automotive Supplies Baby Needs Bakery Items Baking Mixes Bulk Items - Food & Non-Food Candy Cereal Cheese Cocoa & Milk Modifiers Coffee, Tea Condiments & Sauces Crackers, Cookies Dairy Products-Fresh Deodorants Desserts		HS Code or Key Word Search AND OR NOT Start Search	
SELECT A MINOR CATEGORY SELECT A SPECIFIC PRODUCT ITEM		Remove Item Clear List	
Search Language: English		Click here to review details of product selections. Product Review	

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<p>ITG Project Harvest</p>	
<p>File Help</p>	<p>ITG Project Harvest</p>
<p>Product Selection</p>	
<p>MAIN MENU</p>	
<p>View All Products</p>	<p>View New Products</p>
<p>MAJOR CATEGORY Cereal</p>	<p>MINOR CATEGORY READY-TO-EAT CEREAL</p>
<p>HOT CEREALS</p>	<p>READY-TO-EAT CEREAL</p>
<p>SELECT A SPECIFIC PRODUCT ITEM</p>	
<p>HS Code or Key Word Search</p>	
<p>AND OR NOT</p>	<p>Start Search</p>
<p>Product Selection List</p>	
<p>Remove Item</p>	
<p>Clear List</p>	
<p>Product Review</p>	
<p>Click here to review details of product selections.</p>	
<p>Search Language English</p>	

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[illegible]

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ITG

Project Harvest

File

Help

ITG Project Harvest

PROD. SELECTION

MAIN MENU

Product Description

CORN WHOLE KERNEL

NEW ITEM

NO PREFERENCE

English

Net Weight

Prepared Qty (kg)

Unit Package

Unit/Pallet

Crate

Pallet

Length

Width

Height

Cube

Weight

ALL

ALL

Supplier

ALL

Supplier Information

EXPAND

Ingredients

NLEA

EXPAND

Other Products Available from this Supplier

Production

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

Available to Ship

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

Best Time to Order

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

Order Acquisition Calendar

Product Selections

BACK

NEXT

Reset this screen

Print this Screen

Add this Product

Exit Review

Continue

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[illegible]

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[illegible]

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[illegible]





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ITG	File Help	ITG Project Harvest
Product Des	Label Policy	Main Menu
<p>ITG can assist you in the development process if you would prefer to buy this product under your own private label. We have the experience and facilities to do your creative artwork and label production. The cost of producing this new label will be factored into the export quotation for this product. The cost of producing a new label will be approximately \$500 to \$1,000 per label.</p> <p>Do you wish product shipped with:</p> <p> <input checked="" type="radio"/> Manufacturer supplied label <input type="radio"/> Your own label </p> <p> <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No Do you wish ITG to assist in developing new labels? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No Do you own any registered trademarks that you will include on the labels? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No Do you have label films available? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No Is there a specific marketing message you wish to communicate through your label? (use field below) </p> <p style="text-align: center;">Done</p>	<p>Label Language English</p> <p>EXPAND</p> <p>MEDIA EXPAND</p>	<p>MAIN MENU</p> <p>EXIT</p> <p>EXPAND</p> <p>MEDIA EXPAND</p>
<p>Grade A</p> <p>Nature's</p> <p>On Product Available to Ship Best Time to Order</p> <p>BACK Product Selections</p>	<p>Reset this screen Print this Screen Add this Product Exit Review</p>	<p>Continue</p>

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ITG Project Harvest	
File Help	
 Selection Review	COMMENTS MAIN MENU
<p>The information captured during this presentation will be compiled into a quotation for price and product availability. By clicking the appropriate button below, you can review this information now, or you can accept your selections as entered. Every effort will be made to provide a quick and timely response to your Request For Quotation. Thank you for your interest in the products and services of ITG.</p>	
Click on "Review Selections" to review selections.	Click on the E-Mail button to save your final selection list as a text file that you may then send electronically to ITG.
	
	Make sure that your printer/fax modem is set as the default printer, then click on the PRINT FAX button.
	

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File Help		ITG Project Harvest	
Company Contacts	Operations Profile	Logistical Preferences	Product Specifications
Importer Comments			
Retail Food Chain - Company Information			
Company Name		Marque Distributeur Int'l S.A.	
Street Address	Batiment Charles de Gaulle 28 Rue Vendôme	Mailing Address	Postal Cx 74-19
City	75002 - Paris	City	75002 - Paris
State		State	
Country	France	Country	France
Postal Code		Postal Code	
Phone #	33-1-47 50 26 40	Fax #	33-1-47 50 26 38
E-Mail		marquedis@attmail.com	
Total Annual Sales	\$50 - \$100 million	Imports as % of Sales	0% - 20%
Retail Stores	501 - 750	No. Employees	101 - 200
How Long in Business		More than 20 years	
Done			

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ITG Project Harvest					
Company Information	Company Profile	Logistical Preferences	Product Specifications	Importer Comments	
Company Name Jean Monceau Title Category Manager/Buyer Phone # 33-1-47.50.26.59 Fax # 33-1-47.50.26.38 Street Address Batiment Charles de Gaulle 28 Rue Vendôme City 75002 - Paris State Country France Postal Code Full E-Mail Address marquedist@attmail.com	Buyer No. 1 Buyer No. 2 Buyer No. 3 Buyer No. 4 Buyer No. 5 More Buyers	Product Vegetables, Canned Fruit, Canned Cereal Remove Item Clear List	Product Vegetables, Canned Fruit, Canned Cereal Remove Item Clear List	Product Vegetables, Canned Fruit, Canned Cereal Remove Item Clear List	Product Vegetables, Canned Fruit, Canned Cereal Remove Item Clear List
MAJOR CATEGORY Automotive Supplies Baby Needs Bakery Items Baking Mixes Bulk Items - Food & Non-Food Candy					
SELECT A MINOR CATEGORY SELECT YOUR PRODUCT BUYING RESPONSIBILITY					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Send a copy of CD-ROM					

Done

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ITG Project Harvest				
Company Information	Operations Profile	Logistical Preferences	Product Specifications	Importer Comments
Primary Contact Name: Antoine Bertrand Title: Category Manager/Buyer Phone #: 33-1-47 50 26 59 Fax #: 33-1-47 50 26 38 Street Address: Batiment Charles de Gaulle 28 Rue Vendôme City: 75002 - Paris State: Country: France Postal Code: Full E-Mail Address: marquedist@attmail.com	Buyer No. 2 Buyer No. 3 Buyer No. 4 Buyer No. 5 More Buyers	SELECT YOUR PRODUCT BUYING RESPONSIBILITY Frozen Fruits Frozen Vegetables - Regular Remove Item Clear List MAJOR CATEGORY Automotive Supplies Baby Needs Bakery Items Baking Mixes Bulk Items - Food & Non-Food Candy SELECT A MINOR CATEGORY SELECT YOUR PRODUCT BUYING RESPONSIBILITY		

☒ Send a copy of CD-ROM

Done

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ITG Project Harvest				
File	Help			
Company Information	Operations Profile	Logistical Preferences	Product Specifications	Importer Comments
Primary Contact	Buyer No. 1	Buyer No. 2	Buyer No. 3	Buyer No. 4
	Buyer No. 5	Buyer No. 6	Buyer No. 7	Buyer No. 8
More Buyers				
<div> <div> Name: Etienne Beneton Title: Category Manager/Buyer Phone #: 33-1-47 50 26 59 Fax #: 33-1-47 50 26 38 Street Address: Batiment Charles de Gaulle 28 Rue Vendôme City: 75002 - Paris State: Country: France Postal Code: Full E-Mail Address: marquedist@attmail.com </div> <div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Send a copy of CD-ROM </div> </div>				
<div> <div> Frozen Baked Goods Frozen Pastry Items </div> <div> Remove Item Clear List </div> </div>				
<div> <div> MAJOR CATEGORY Automotive Supplies Baby Needs Bakery Items Baking Mixes Bulk Items - Food & Non-Food Candy </div> <div> SELECT A MINOR CATEGORY SELECT YOUR PRODUCT BUYING RESPONSIBILITY </div> </div>				
Done				

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ITG Project Harvest			
File	Help		

Company Information	Company Contacts	Logistical Preferences	Product Specifications	Importer Comments
---------------------	------------------	------------------------	------------------------	-------------------

Retail Food Chain - Operations Profile

Retail Store Locations

France: Over 500	+
Germany: 100 - 199	+
Sweden: 50 - 99	+

Remove Item
Clear List

Credit References

Bank	Banque Paribas	
Contact	Marc Antoine	FAX 33-1-47 20 30
Account	Z2947A-3	

Trade References

Company	Apple Valley Produce Company	
Contact	Jack Ballinger	FAX 509-772-9374
Company	Valley Creek Growers	
Contact	Dordthy O'Darby	FAX 404-590-3826
Company	Campbell Inc.	
Contact	Ron Brown	FAX 205-268-1234

Done

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ITG Project Harvest			
File	Help		

Company Information	Company Contacts	Company Profile	Logistical Preferences	Product Specifications	Importer Comments
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Retail Food Chain - Operations Profile

Retail Store Locations

France: Over 500	↑
Germany: 100 - 199	↓
Sweden: 50 - 99	↓

Remove Item

Clear List

Credit References

Bank	Banque Paribas	
Contact	Marc Antoine	FAX 33-1-47.20.30
Account	Z2947A-3	


Trade References

Company	Apple Valley Produce Company	
Contact	Jack Ballinger	FAX 509-772-9374
Company	Valley Creek Growers	
Contact	Dorothy O'Darby	FAX 404-590-3826
Company	Campbell Inc.	
Contact	Ron Brown	FAX 205-268-1234

Done


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ITG Project Harvest				
File	Help			
Company Information	Company Contacts	Operations Profile	Logistical Preferences	Product Specifications
Product #2		Product #3	Product #4	Importer Comments
<p>Description: Whole Kernel Canned Corn</p> <p>Product: 128237 Supplier: P34762</p> <p>Grade: A Fancy Label: Buyer</p> <p>Case: 24/15 oz Label Language: French</p> <p>Weight: 12.725 lbs Cube: .973 cuft</p> <p>Container: 20-FCL Loading: Slip Sheets</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Samples Requested</p> <p>Anticipated orders for this product are 40 x 20' FCL/quarter to begin about 3 March 1996. Requested target price @ US\$9.50/case CIF Rotterdam.</p> <p>Product Notes: Vac pack preferred. 24/12oz acceptable. Prefer sweet variety. Quote as soon as possible. First ship 11/95.</p>				
				
Done				

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ITG Project Harvest				
File Help				
Company Information	Company Contacts	Operations Profile	Logistical Preferences	Product Specifications
Product #1 Description: Crispy Rice Cereal Product: 298423 Grade: N/A Case: 24/20 oz Weight: 9.79 lbs		Product #3 Supplier: C23456 Label: Buyer Label Language: French Cube: 1.23 cuft	Product #4 Container: 40-FCL Loading: Floor Loaded <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Samples Requested	Importer Comments  <p>Anticipated orders for this product are 5 x 40' FCL annually to begin about 1st Quarter 1996. Requested target price @ US\$14.25/case C&F Antwerp.</p> <p>Product Notes: This is a new Import item for us. Need help with packaging design and photography.</p>
				Done

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ITG Project Harvest				
File	Help			
Company Information	Company Contacts	Operations Profile	Logistical Preferences	Product Specifications
Product #1	Product #2	Product #3	Product #4	Importer Comments
<p>Description: Sliced Yellow Cling Canned Peaches</p> <p>Product: 340921 Supplier: W23497</p> <p>Grade: B Choice Label: Nature's Harvest</p> <p>Case: 24/29 oz Label Language: French</p> <p>Weight: 26.92 lbs Cube: 1.67 cuft</p> <p>Container: 40-FCL Loading: Palletized</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Samples Requested</p> <p>Anticipated orders for this product are 7 x 40' FCL/quarter to begin about April 1996. Requested target price @ US\$12.10/case FOB Baltimore.</p> <p>Product Notes: This is a new Import Item for us. Price is primary consideration. Quality not as critical. Brix 20° to 24°. Will consider packer label.</p>				
				Done

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ITG Project Harvest				
File Help				
Company Information	Company Contacts	Operations Profile	Logistical Preferences	Product Specifications
Product #1	Product #2	Product #3	Product #4	Importer Comments
<p>Description: Sliced Canned Green Beans</p> <p>Product: 129467 Supplier: P34762</p> <p>Grade: A Fancy Label: Harvest Time</p> <p>Case: 24x15 oz Label Language: French</p> <p>Weight: 11.25 lbs Cube: .98 cuft</p> <p>Container: LCL Loading: Palletized</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Samples Requested</p> <p>Anticipated orders for this product are 10 x consolidations/year to begin about 3 March 1996.</p> <p>Requested target price @ US\$9.50/case CIF Rotterdam.</p> <p>Product Notes: <u>Current imports from China and Spain.</u></p>				
<p>Done</p>				


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ITG Project Harvest				
File	Help			
Company Information	Company Contacts	Operations Profile	Logistical Preferences	Product Specifications
<h2 style="text-align: center;">Importer Comments</h2>				
<p>This is the first time we are using your system. Please quote as soon as possible. Our deadline for replies: November 30, 1995. Please send us 12 more CD-ROMs of US Private Label Products at no charge. Thank you.</p>				
<p>Product quality is my prime buying-decision criterion: <input checked="" type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO</p> <p>Product price is my prime buying-decision criterion: <input type="radio"/> YES <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO</p> <p>Given equal price/quality to our existing source, we will buy: <input checked="" type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO</p> <p>Send inquiry only to chosen suppliers: <input checked="" type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO</p> <p>Send inquiry to all suppliers that can quote our products: <input type="radio"/> YES <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO</p> <p>Please include company brochures and collateral materials: <input checked="" type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO</p> <p>I will use your packaging design services: <input type="radio"/> YES <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO</p>				
Done				

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Comments

PRODUCT REVIEW

MAIN MENU

ITG Project Harvest

This CD-ROM has been designed to capture the necessary information to make your export quotation complete, accurate and timely. Please use the space below to communicate any additional comments, requirements and/or information that should be considered when responding to your Request for Quotation.

Importer Comments

Product quality is my prime buying-decision criterion: ☐ YES ☐ NO

Product price is my prime buying-decision criterion: ☐ YES ☐ NO

Given equal price/quality to our existing source, we will buy: ☐ YES ☐ NO

Send inquiry only to chosen suppliers: ☐ YES ☐ NO

Send inquiry to all suppliers that can quote our products: ☐ YES ☐ NO

Please include company brochures and collateral materials: ☐ YES ☐ NO


I will use your packaging design services: ☐ YES ☐ NO

Click on the "Continue" button to go on to Selections Review.

Continue

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ITG Project Harvest	
File Help	
	
Selection Review	
COMMENTS	MAIN MENU
<p>The information captured during this presentation will be compiled into a quotation for price and product availability. By clicking the appropriate button below, you can review this information now, or you can accept your selections as entered. Every effort will be made to provide a quick and timely response to your Request For Quotation. Thank you for your interest in the products and services of ITG.</p>	
Click on "Review Selections" to review selections.	Click on the E-Mail button to save your final selection list as a text file that you may then send electronically to ITG.
Review Selections	E-Mail
	Make sure that your printer/fax modem is set as the default printer, then click on the PRINT/FAX button.
	Print/Fax

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ITG Project Harvest

File Help

The Foreign Buyer's Pre-Formatted Request For Quotation

FAX - REQUEST FOR EXPORT QUOTATION (RFQ)

PACIFIC TRADING

CD 345678 (ARC N° 2001) - v32 - 1st time 10/13/95. Inquiry Due: 11/03/95
 Please forward this inquiry to the suppliers of the following selected products

Table 1: 1st time 10/13/95. Inquiry Due: 11/03/95. USA
 Fax: (503) 900-4901 • E-Mail: itg@pacifictrading.com • Tel: (503) 900-4905

Table 2: 1st time 10/13/95. Inquiry Due: 11/03/95. USA
 Fax: (503) 900-4901 • E-Mail: itg@pacifictrading.com • Tel: (503) 900-4905

Table 3: 1st time 10/13/95. Inquiry Due: 11/03/95. USA
 Fax: (503) 900-4901 • E-Mail: itg@pacifictrading.com • Tel: (503) 900-4905

Table 4: 1st time 10/13/95. Inquiry Due: 11/03/95. USA
 Fax: (503) 900-4901 • E-Mail: itg@pacifictrading.com • Tel: (503) 900-4905

Table 5: 1st time 10/13/95. Inquiry Due: 11/03/95. USA
 Fax: (503) 900-4901 • E-Mail: itg@pacifictrading.com • Tel: (503) 900-4905

Table 6: 1st time 10/13/95. Inquiry Due: 11/03/95. USA
 Fax: (503) 900-4901 • E-Mail: itg@pacifictrading.com • Tel: (503) 900-4905

Table 7: 1st time 10/13/95. Inquiry Due: 11/03/95. USA
 Fax: (503) 900-4901 • E-Mail: itg@pacifictrading.com • Tel: (503) 900-4905

Table 8: 1st time 10/13/95. Inquiry Due: 11/03/95. USA
 Fax: (503) 900-4901 • E-Mail: itg@pacifictrading.com • Tel: (503) 900-4905

Table 9: 1st time 10/13/95. Inquiry Due: 11/03/95. USA
 Fax: (503) 900-4901 • E-Mail: itg@pacifictrading.com • Tel: (503) 900-4905

Table 10: 1st time 10/13/95. Inquiry Due: 11/03/95. USA
 Fax: (503) 900-4901 • E-Mail: itg@pacifictrading.com • Tel: (503) 900-4905

Table 11: 1st time 10/13/95. Inquiry Due: 11/03/95. USA
 Fax: (503) 900-4901 • E-Mail: itg@pacifictrading.com • Tel: (503) 900-4905

Table 12: 1st time 10/13/95. Inquiry Due: 11/03/95. USA
 Fax: (503) 900-4901 • E-Mail: itg@pacifictrading.com • Tel: (503) 900-4905

Table 13: 1st time 10/13/95. Inquiry Due: 11/03/95. USA
 Fax: (503) 900-4901 • E-Mail: itg@pacifictrading.com • Tel: (503) 900-4905

Table 14: 1st time 10/13/95. Inquiry Due: 11/03/95. USA
 Fax: (503) 900-4901 • E-Mail: itg@pacifictrading.com • Tel: (503) 900-4905

Table 15: 1st time 10/13/95. Inquiry Due: 11/03/95. USA
 Fax: (503) 900-4901 • E-Mail: itg@pacifictrading.com • Tel: (503) 900-4905

Table 16: 1st time 10/13/95. Inquiry Due: 11/03/95. USA
 Fax: (503) 900-4901 • E-Mail: itg@pacifictrading.com • Tel: (503) 900-4905

Table 17: 1st time 10/13/95. Inquiry Due: 11/03/95. USA
 Fax: (503) 900-4901 • E-Mail: itg@pacifictrading.com • Tel: (503) 900-4905

Table 18: 1st time 10/13/95. Inquiry Due: 11/03/95. USA
 Fax: (503) 900-4901 • E-Mail: itg@pacifictrading.com • Tel: (503) 900-4905

Previous

Continue

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ITG Project Harvest

File Help

The Supplier's Export Trade Lead

FAX - EXPORT TRADE LEAD at 800/273-1146/4500

General Travel Group - 6730 55th Ave. N. - Lyndale, MN 55422 - USA
Telex: 50333 9694 9001 • E-Mail: reservations@general.com • Fax: (612) 568 4375

Lab: Johnson, Irving Co. Inc.
 1214 Maple Drive
 Kansas City, MO 64104
 USA
SN: 224262
PC: (816) 524-3022
DL: (816) 524-3025
PR: (816) 524-3030
E-Mail: Johnson.I@att.net

Expiry Date: 11/03/05. Customer: NP 0415672. RFQ0001
We have received the following information regarding your company's RFQ:

[illegible]

Concord: 145. Iron Works, Caring, Abner's
Cared Vegetable, Concord Fruit, Concord
(Spoke English is only web)

Q104: \$50 to \$99 million	Wholesale Dist	Employs: 120 to 199
Percent Imports: 50%	N° of Accounts: 548	Years in Business: 1-29

Free. Lots Fresh **Can Label Protected** **File. Suppl.**

Salin Fort Le Havre
Oscar Prentiss.

[illegible]

המחלקה לטיפול בנפגעי טרור, הממונה על ידי שירות המבחן, תתמוך את המאמצים של שירות המבחן להגברת הפיקוד והאחריות של הוריהם של הנפגעים, וכן תתמוך את המאמצים של שירות המבחן להגברת הפיקוד והאחריות של הוריהם של הנפגעים, וכן תתמוך את המאמצים של שירות המבחן להגברת הפיקוד והאחריות של הוריהם של הנפגעים.

19237 Whole Retail Canned Corn, 28 1/2 Lbs. Fancy A
Dexter Lot of Supplies (Hats), Free Volume, 29 Cent. Or
Interested in Retail Customers, Please Write/Stop
Send Samples, Yes

2. 12049
Seed Sample: Yes
Currently Ingested from: Grass, Spain, USA
Bayer Label (Supply Map): No/12 on acceptable. Preference not verified.
Wade as soon as possible. 1st Ship: 11/95
3. 12048
Seed Sample: Yes
Currently Ingested from: China, Spain, USA
Corrad Gavin, Bains: 12/1/94. Fussy A
Bayer Label (Supply Map): Foul Volume: 10 Count/Vol.: NYC Prod
Interested in Animal Correlates: None bad/Signified
Seed Samples: Yes
4. 12047
Seed Sample: Yes
Currently Ingested from: Italy, Missouri, Peru, Spain, USA
Corrad Gavin, Bains: 12/1/94. Fussy A
Bayer Label (Supply Map): Foul Volume: 10 Count/Vol.: NYC Prod
Interested in Animal Correlates: None bad/Signified
Seed Samples: Yes

Colombian Communist Party
 First quarter soon is possible. Dealers supplies November 30, 1965

DEFERRED

Country is presently considering non-DHS to test:
What to use your packaging design services. Make offer:
Inquire about how to fill out the form on Ship by
- Account No.: 0442/245209, UN# 48705415
- Send Samples to: Joseph Tarnowski - Dept. Controller/Quality
Control at all companies before ship now.
Require you a product catalog & price list.
Require information on your company. Send brochure:

Yes.
Yes.
1: DIAL 2: US
Yes.
Yes.
Yes.

Previous

Done

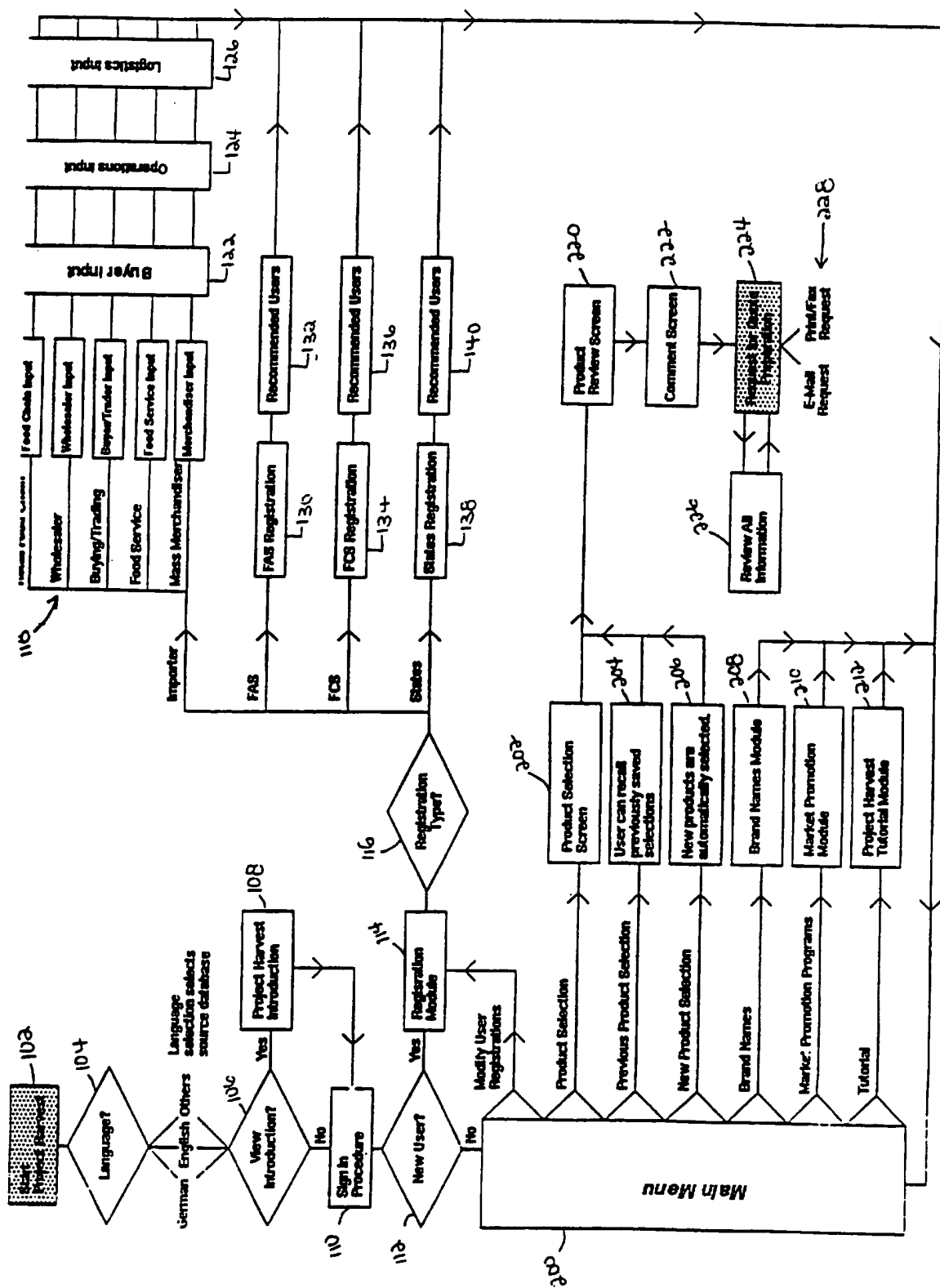


Fig. A

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US96/18133

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC(6) : G06F 17/60, 15/00 US CL : 395/226, 201, 752, 758 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) U.S. : 395/226, 201, 752, 758 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) APS, Dialog (remote or computer) & (purchase or buy or order) & (catalog or directory) & (language or translate)		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US, A, 5,361,199 (SHOQUIST ET AL.) 01 November 1994, See entire document.	1-10
Y	US, A, 5,319,542 (KING, JR. ET AL.) 07 June 1994, See entire document.	1-10, 13-16
Y	US, A, 5,175,684 (CHONG) 29 December 1992, See entire document.	13-16
Y	US, A, 4,992,940 (DWORKIN) 12 February 1991, See entire document.	1-10
Y	US, A, 4,799,156 (SHAVIT ET AL.) 17 January 1989, See entire document.	1-10
Y, P	Info. Access Co. Internet Service Casts for Japanese. Catalog Age. November 1995, v12, n12, page 24.	1-16
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.		
*	Special categories of cited documents:	*T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art *&* document member of the same patent family
A	document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	
E	earlier document published on or after the international filing date	
L	document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	
O	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
P	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	
Date of the actual completion of the international search 03 FEBRUARY 1997		Date of mailing of the international search report 07 MAR 1997
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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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